

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently twice amended) A method of tuning a digital terminal to access services, comprising the steps of:

sending one or more digital messages to the terminal from a server, said one or more digital messages containing information associating each of a plurality of applications provided for on the terminal with a respective one or more channel(s);

receiving a user request for enabling a particular application from said plurality of applications; automatically tuning to the respective one or more channel(s) associated with a said particular application in response to a said user request for that application; and

automatically obtaining prior to the execution of said particular application at least one of a an associated video service, an audio service, or and a data content service from the tuned channel(s) for use by the particular requested application upon execution.

2. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the server is one of a controller, a web server, or a proxy server.

3. (Presently canceled) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the information contained in the one or more digital messages associates each of the plurality of applications with at least one of a respective program source and a respective service and associates each of one or more channel numbers with at least one of said respective program source and said respective service.

4. (Currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein: the plurality of applications are provided on the terminal; and

the channel is tuned when one of (i) the requested application is enabled, (ii) before the requested application is enabled, or (iii) after the requested application is enabled.

5. (Previously amended) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of sending one or more digital messages further comprises the steps of:

sending a first digital message which contains information associating each of said plurality of applications with at least one of: (i) one or more respective program sources; and (ii) one or more respective services; and

sending a second digital message which contains information associating each of one or more channel numbers with at least one of said respective program source and said respective service.

6. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 5, wherein:
the first digital message is a Virtual Object Message; and
the second digital message is a Virtual Channel Message.

7. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 5, wherein the terminal is adapted to be operated in a Multiple Applications Management (MAM) environment.

8. (Previously amended) A method in accordance with claim 5, wherein:
the first digital message includes a Virtual Application Table (VAT) containing one or more VAT records, each of which provides the association of each of said plurality applications with at least one of: (i) one or more respective program sources; and (ii) one or more respective services; and

the second digital message includes a Virtual Channel Table (VCT) which provides the association of each of said one or more channel numbers with at least one of said respective program source or said respective service.

9. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 8, wherein each VAT record comprises: one or more VCT_source_ID fields, each of which identifies the respective programming source associated with an application; and

one or more VCT_application_ID fields, each of which identifies the respective service associated with an application.

10. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, comprising the further step of preparing a list of authorized applications available for use on the terminal.

11 (Original) A method in accordance with claim 10, comprising the further step of preparing a menu of authorized applications available on the terminal for user selection.

12. (Previously amended) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein at least one of said plurality of applications is a virtual application.

13. (Original) A method in accordance with claim I, comprising the further step of maintaining the information in non-volatile memory, such that said information is preserved through resets of the terminal.

14. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein one application is designated as a system wide default application authorized to run on all terminals in a digital network.

15. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said services include at least one of email services, Internet services, news services, scripting language content, video-on-demand, web browsing, electronic programming guide, advertising, audio-on-demand, telephony services, stock prices, weather data, travel services and information, games, gambling, banking, shopping, and voting.

16. (Previously amended) A method in accordance with claim I, wherein said applications provide at least one of email services, Internet services, news services, scripting language content, video-on-demand, web browsing, electronic programming guide, advertising, audio-on-demand, telephony services, stock prices, weather data, travel services and information, games, gambling, banking, shopping, and voting.

17. (Currently twice amended) A system for tuning a digital terminal to access services, comprising:

a terminal having one or more tuners and a user interface;

a server in communication with the terminal for sending one or more digital messages to the terminal, said one or more digital messages containing information associating each of a plurality of applications provided for on the terminal with a respective one or more channel(s); wherein:

the terminal receives a user request for enabling a particular application from said plurality of applications via the user interface;

the one or more tuners automatically ~~can~~ tune to the respective one or more channel(s) associated with a said particular application in response to a said user request for that application; and

the terminal ~~can obtain~~ automatically obtains prior to the execution of said particular application at least one of ~~a~~ an associated video service, an audio service, or and a data content service from the tuned channel(s) for use by the particular requested application upon execution.

18. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 17, wherein the server is one of a controller, a web server, or a proxy server.

19. (Presently canceled) A system in accordance with claim 17, wherein the information contained in the one or more digital messages associates each of said plurality of applications with at least one of a respective program source and a respective service and associates each of one or more channel numbers with at least one of said respective program source and said respective service.

20. (Previously amended) A system in accordance with claim 17, wherein:

the plurality of applications are provided on the terminal; and

the channel is tuned when one of (i) the requested application is enabled, (ii) before the requested application is enabled, or (iii) after the requested application is enabled.

21. (Previously amended) A system in accordance with claim 17, wherein the one or more digital messages further comprises:

a first digital message which contains information associating each of said plurality of applications with at least one of: (i) one or more respective program sources; and (ii) one or more respective services; and

a second digital message which contains information associating each of one or more channel numbers with at least one of said respective program source and said respective service.

22. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 21, wherein:

the first digital message is a Virtual Object Message; and

the second digital message is a Virtual Channel Message.

23. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 21, wherein the terminal is adapted to be operated in a Multiple Applications Management (MAM) environment.

24. (Previously amended) A system in accordance with claim 21, wherein:

the first digital message includes a Virtual Application Table (VAT) containing one or more VAT records, each of which provides the association of each of said plurality of applications with at least one of: (i) one or more respective program sources; and (ii) one or more respective services; and

the second digital message includes a Virtual Channel Table (VCT) which provides the association of each of said one or more channel numbers with at least one of said respective program source or said respective service.

25. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 24, wherein each VAT record comprises:
one or more VCT_source_ID fields, each of which identifies the respective programming source associated with an application; and
one or more VCT_application_ID fields, each of which identifies the respective service associated with an application.
26. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 17, wherein a list of authorized applications available for use on the terminal is prepared.
27. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 26, further comprising a menu of authorized applications available on the terminal for user selection.
28. (Previously amended) A system in accordance with claim 17, wherein at least one of said plurality of applications is a virtual application.
29. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 17, wherein the information is maintained in non-volatile memory, such that said information is preserved through resets of the terminal.
30. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 17, wherein one application is designated as a system wide default application authorized to run on all terminals in a digital network.
31. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 17, wherein said services include at least one of email services, Internet services, news services, scripting language content, video-on-demand, web browsing, electronic programming guide, advertising, audio-on-demand, telephony

services, stock prices, weather data, travel services and information, games, gambling, banking, shopping, and voting.

32. (Previously amended) A system in accordance with claim 17, wherein said applications provide at least one of email services, Internet services, news services, scripting language content, video-on-demand, web browsing, electronic programming guide, advertising, audio-on-demand, telephony services, stock prices, weather data, travel services and information, games, gambling, banking, shopping, and voting.

33. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said one or more digital messages are sent to the terminal via a non-video communication channel.

34. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 33, wherein said non-video communication channel comprises an out-of-band data channel.

35. (Previously presented). A method in accordance with claim 17, wherein said one or more digital messages are sent to the terminal via a non-video communication channel.

36. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 35, wherein said non-video communication channel comprises an out-of-band data channel.